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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/752,671	01/08/2004	Kenji Kawazura	P24444	4459
7055	7590	02/03/2005	EXAMINER	
GREENBLUM & BERNSTEIN, P.L.C.			GRAY, DAVID M	
1950 ROLAND CLARKE PLACE			ART UNIT	
RESTON, VA 20191			PAPER NUMBER	
			2851	

DATE MAILED: 02/03/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/752,671

Applicant(s)

KAWAZURA, KENJI

Examiner

David M Gray

Art Unit

2851

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 08 January 2004.
2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-6 is/are pending in the application.
4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
6) ☒ Claim(s) 1 and 3-6 is/are rejected.
7) ☒ Claim(s) 2 is/are objected to.
8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 08 January 2004 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 01-08-2004.
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6) ☐ Other: _____.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1, 3, 5 and 6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being clearly anticipated by Ito et al. 5,848,314.

Regarding claims 1 and 6, Ito et al. disclose, “a projecting exterior portion [11 which includes 13] which is provided substantially at a central portion of a front surface of a camera body [see figure 1]; a circular annular mount plate [30], which is fitted to said projecting exterior portion, and to which a photographing lens unit is detachably attached, said circular annular mount plate having a connecting surface which contacts with said photographing lens unit [col 3, lns 33-45]; a mount lock pin [31] which is biased to protrude from said connecting surface of the circular annular mount plate to engage with said photographing lens unit at a predetermined position; and a mount unlocking button [40] which is operated to move said mount lock pin in a direction to retract from said connecting surface; wherein said mount unlocking button is provided on a portion of an outer peripheral surface of said projecting exterior portion that is located closer to a lens optical axis thereof than a farthestmost portion of said projecting exterior portion from the lens optical axis in a horizontal direction of said camera body [40 is contained within, and surrounded by 13 which constitutes a part of 11, therefor the ‘projecting exterior portion (11, 13)’ extends horizontally beyond the ‘mount unlocking button (40)’].”

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Regarding claim 3, the “mount unlocking button [40] is connected to an auto-focusing lens drive pin via a link mechanism [col 5, lns 24-43].”

Regarding claim 5, the “mount unlocking button [40] is located inside a vertically-extending tangential plane of the outermost edge of the projecting exterior portion [the plane extending from the left most portion of 13].”

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claim 4 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ito et al. 5,848,314 in view of Kurei et al. 4,860,043.

Ito et al. disclose the mount lock apparatus for a camera, as set forth above, but do not disclose the claimed “link mechanism is provided with a mode selection device for selecting an auto-focus mode or a manual focus mode.”

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill at the time of applicant's invention to provide a manual focus mode for the Ito et al. camera. One would have been motivated to so modify Ito et al. in order to allow the photographer more freedom in composing the photograph.

Allowable Subject Matter

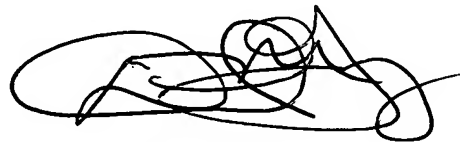
Claim 2 is objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter: The prior art does not disclose or suggest the specified "operating direction of said mount unlocking button" in combination with the remaining claim elements as set forth in claim 2.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to David M Gray whose telephone number is 571-272-2119. The examiner can normally be reached on M-T 7:00-5:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Judy Nguyen can be reached on 571-272-2258. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



David M Gray
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2851